GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:500
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF IT IN KERALA
K. MURALEEDHARAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal for development of Information Technology in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have any new proposal for IT Sector in Rural Areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PR MAHAJAN)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. The Government of Keralahas submitted the following two proposals for development of Information Technology in State. These are:

(i) Establishment of a `Technology Habitat: for development of software and IT enabled services of Cochin;

The focus areas of the habitat would be the development of IT and I.Tenabled services of Cochin including e-commerce, multimedia and e-education etc. The total outlay of the project is Rs.40 to 50 Crores.

(ii) Project for IT facilitated education in schools and colleges;

This project is targeted for distance and web based education in the country, it envisages the networking of educational institutions through IT - thereby enhancing the quality of teaching and also to generate large number of quality ITfacilitated graduates and teachers in diverse subject areas. The project duration is 3 years with a total outlay of Rs.4,421 lakhs.

(c) and (d): The Working Group of IT for Masses has given recommendation regarding benefit of IT for rural residents. In principle, the recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry. A National IT Mission has been set up recentlyto oversee the implementation of recommendations of the Working Group. MIT has been implementing pilot programmes and projects for the benefit of rural areas which can be replicated by other agencies including State Government. Projects taken up in rural areas are at Annexure.

Annexure

1) Samadhan Kendra

Four Pilot `sAMADHAN KENDRA` projects have been initiated in the country, two in Madhya Pradesh,One each inAndhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Based on the sustainability and usefulness of these projects in rural areas, further expansion schemes would be formulated in consultatioh with concerned State Governments and Rural Departments.

Samadhan Kendras are conceived as Village Information Centres for providing locally relevant content and informationto the villagers on topics such as agricultural practices, health status of communities, educational opportunities, government schemes, and employment opportunities.

2) Community Information Centre (CIC)

With a view to accelerating the socio-economic development of the community in hilly areas of difficult geographical terrain having poor infrastructural and communication facilities in the North-East region of the country, a scheme was approved for providing connectivity by setting up Community Information Centres (CICs) at all the block headquartersin the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim.

A pilot project was launched in August, 2000 at an estimated cost of Rs.15 crores by setting up 30 CICs in theaforesaid states at sites selected by the state government. These systems are being used by the community mainly for browsing the Internet and utilising the E-mail facilities. The school and college children are also using thesefacilities extensively. Based on the experience gained with existing CICs, there is a proposal to set up another457 CICs at the remaining block headquarters of these states. The project cost is

to the tune of Rs.220 crores which is under EFC approval.